generating assets through a mix of bank credit and the Government subsidy. The SGSY particularly focus on the disadvantaged sections of the rural poor and safeguards have been provided by way of reserving 50% benefits for SCs/STs, 40% for women, and 3% for persons with disability.

73rd Constitution Amendment Act

1181. SHRI W. ANGOU SINGH: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the names of States where the 73rd Constitution Amendment Act, 1992 has been extended to their scheduled area;

(b) whether it is a fact that this Act can benefit the grass root village level more than that of the Sixth Schedule extended in the Scheduled Areas; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M. VENKAIAH NAIDU): (a) The provisions of Panchayats have been extended to the Schedule-V Areas of the States, namely, Andhra Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Himachal Pradesh, Gujarat, Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, Orissa and Rajasthan.

(b) and (c) The provisions of the Constitution (73rd Amendment) Act, 1992 devolve greater powers on institution of self-Government than the powers enjoyed by the Autonomous Councils in the Sixth Schedule Areas. This Act benefits the village councils at grass-root levels by providing additional benefits, namely, (a) constitution of Gram Panchayats (b) election to the Gram Panchayats (c) reservation for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes at every level of Panchayats (d) setting up of State Finance Commission to make recommendations for distribution of taxes, tolls and duties between the State and Panchayats, and (e) devolution of powers upon Panchayats including in respect of 29 subjects listed in the Eleventh Schedule of the Constitution.

CAPART assistance to rural artisans of North-Eastern States

1182. SHRI KARNEDU BHATTACHARJEE: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether any plan has been drawn by CAPART for providing financial assistance and training to rural artisans in the North-Eastern States;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the total amount spent by way of assistance to artisans, so far; and

(d) the criteria for selection of artisans under the schemes?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI SUBHASH MAHARIA): (a) to (d) CAPART provides financial assistance to Voluntary Organisations for rural development and empowerment of rural poor on project basis. It has been providing financial assistance to a number of Voluntary Organisations in the North-East to impart training to the rural poor artisans to raise their skills, productivity and incomes. So far 104 projects have been implemented benefiting about 4221 rural poor artisans for which Rs. 1.78 crore has been extended as assistance to the implementing Voluntary Organisations.

Declines in export of silk garments

†1183. SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the exports of the Indian silk garments have declined by 20 per cent during the current financial year;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is a fact that the Draw Back and the Duty Entitlement (DEPB) to be provided by Government for promotion of silk exports, have been pending since long;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether it is a fact that the said problem and the

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.